AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [001] entitled "Related Application Information" of U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0085994 with the following amended paragraph:

RELATED APPLICATION INFORMATION

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Utility Application No.

[[10/_____]]10/612,753, filed Jul. 1, 2003, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Switching Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Devices", which in turn claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application 60/393,164, filed Jul. 2, 2002, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Switching In a Fibre Channel Network" and U.S. Provisional Application 60/395,107, filed Jul. 10, 2002, entitled "System and Method for Multiple Trunk Connections Between Fibre Channel Switches", all of which are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Please replace paragraph [0187] of U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0085994 with the following amended paragraph:

[0187] A hub also provides a mechanism to bypass unused or malfunctioning nodes or interconnects to keep the loop operational. As shown in FIG. 3, Node 3 90 has a broken fiber 100 that would normally render the loop inoperable. The hub 120 bypasses ~~the port 112~~through 112 the port that has Node 3 connected to it and maintains an operable loop 112, 101, 102, 103, 113, 104, 106, 105, 114, 107, 108, 115, 109, 110 with the remaining devices 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96.

Please replace paragraph [0322] of U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0085994 with the following amended paragraph:

[0322] Cascading refers to interconnecting Loop Switches together. In the following sections the Loop Switches are contained in root switches, see FIG. 16b 1919 and FIG. 16c 1944 and SBODS, see FIG. 16a 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912, FIG. 16b, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1930 and FIG. 16c, 1950, 1947. One implementation of a root switch is with a Loop Switch ASIC on a printed circuit board with a microprocessor and support logic, a power supply, all within a single chassis. This is a Loop Switch

contained in a stand-alone switch box. Another deployment of Loop Switches is within a hard disk drive storage enclosure, i.e., a JBOD. When the Loop Switch is contained on a printer circuit board and plugged into the backplane or mid-plane of a hard disk drive storage enclosure it becomes a switched bunch of disks or SBOD. Each disk is directly connected to the Loop Switch.